

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

We are writing to you about the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) efforts to address Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). While I do acknowledge there has been some progress in the TBI neuroscience field, we are still concerned about the lack of overall improvement in the treatment and care that Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) patients receive. We would encourage you to support the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) recommendations for advancing TBI awareness, education, care, and research found in the 2022 NASEM Report entitled *Traumatic Brain Injury: A Roadmap for Accelerating Progress*.

NASEM produced this report at the request of the Department of Defense with support from the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and an array of national academic research centers. The report found that TBI care in the United States fails to address the needs of patients suffering from the sequelae of TBI and calls for a comprehensive plan to improve TBI care. There are currently no mechanisms in place to provide adults and children suffering from TBI with either routine follow-up or long-term care. These issues result in TBI patients and their families suffering from increased financial costs, decreased quality of life, and increased risk of early death, among many other consequences.

As you may know, the report presents a framework that would continue and complete the work established under the 2012 National Research Action Plan (NRAP) on TBI and PTSD. This interagency effort aims to promote research and innovations in the related areas.

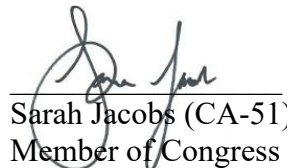
We encourage HHS leadership to establish a National Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force that brings together key government stakeholders to coordinate ongoing national efforts, including developing a 10-year plan to transform the diagnosis, treatment, and care of TBI patients.

We appreciate your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



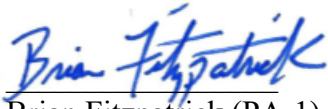
Morgan Luttrell (TX-8)
Member of Congress



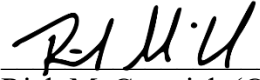
Sarah Jacobs (CA-51)
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Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1)
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Rich McCormick (GA-6)
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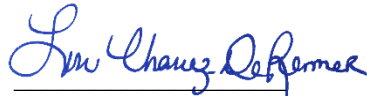
Mike Collins (GA-10)
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Earl Blumenauer (OR-3)
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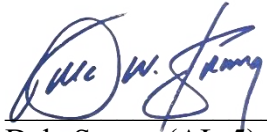
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Dale Strong (AL-5)
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Jake Ellzey (TX-6)
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